

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVY REGION MID-ATLANTIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

1510 GILBERT STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2737
TEL: (757) 322-2853
FAX: (757) 445-1953



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12-04

February 24, 2004

USS MASON VETERANS TO VISIT LOCAL SCHOOL

Norfolk, VA (CNRMA) – Veterans from the crew of the USS MASON (DE-529) and current Sailors from the USS MASON (DDG-87) will visit students at Norview Elementary School on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 9:30 a.m.

The veterans from USS MASON (DE-529) are the subject of the movie *Proud*, which is showing this week at the Nauticus theatre for special test screenings.

Proud is based on the book and documentary *Proudly We Served: The story of the USS Mason and her crew* by award winning author Dr. Mary Pat Kelly. *Proud* tells the story of how during WWII, destroyer escort USS *Mason* (DE-529), was the first ship to carry an all African-American crew into combat. These sailors fought the Nazis at sea during the Battle of the Atlantic, and racism at home. This was also the first time blacks were permitted to train and serve in ratings other than cooks and stewards.

-USN-

MEDIA NOTE: Media desiring cover the event may contact Heather Welch at the Navy's Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs Office at 322-2853.